THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Presumably the question seeks information on number of casual labour on Railways. As on 1-4-1989 approximately 1.92 Lakhs casual labour are working on Railways.

(b) and (c) Barring certain exceptions, virtually all the vacancies in Group D, are at present, being filled by absorption of casual labour/substitutes after screening. Absorption of casual labour/substitutes in regular employment is however. subject to factors like availability of vacancies and eligibility and suitability of such individuals for regular employment. In the past few years approximately 50,000 posts have been created to facilitate absorption of casual labour in regular employment.

Setting up of deep sea fishing harbour on North West Coast

567. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group has been constituted to select a suitable location for setting up of deep sea fishing harbour on the North West Coast;

(b) whether the Group has considered the suitability of Agagar-danda in Maharasthra from all technical points of view for setting up of the harbour; and

(b) if not, what are the other locations being considered for the purpose ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Group has considered the suitability of Agar-danda in Maharasthra for development of a deep sea fishing harbour. The Group has also considered the suitability of location another deep sea fishing harbour at Okha in Gujarat.

Number of physically handicapped persons in the Country

568. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of the physically handicapped persons in the country;

(b) the details of the institutions functioning in the country who provide suitable training to them in different skills;

(c) the number of handicapped persons who are gainfully employed; and

(d) the schemes under way for further expanding the training facilities for the handicapped persons ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) According to a Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1981 there were 12 million physically handicapped persons in the country which constituted 1.8% of the total population.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House *(See* below).

(c) Information regarding the total number of handicapped gainfully employed is not available. However, during the year 1989 alone, employment exchanges/ Special Employment Exchanges and Vocational Rehabilitation Centres were able to rehabilitate over 9000 handicapped persons.

In addition, a large number of physically handicapped persons are em ployed in private sector or are self employed.

(d) The existing schemes for handicapped will be expanded during 8th Plan so that more persons may be benefitted under the schemes.

Statement

Number of Physically handicapped persons in the country

The following are the major institutions functioning in the country to provide vocational training/skill training to the physically handicapped.

1. 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres are functioning under the Ministry of Labour in various parts of the country exclusively for training of handicapped persons. A list of addresses of the VRCs is attached at Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 21.] 3% reservation for the physically handicapped exists in all ITIs also.

2. Voluntary organisations have played a pioneering role in helping the handicapped in the country. A large number of special schools for the disabled, limb fitting centres and sheltered workshops are in the voluntary sector. Under the Ministry of Welfare's scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Disabled Persons, 68 voluntary organisations are receiving assistance for running vocational training facilities. A list of names and addresses of these organisations is at annexure. *[See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 22.]

3. Ministry of Welfare has also launched the District Rehabilitation Centre scheme as a pilot project to provide comprehensive and coordinated services including vocational rehabilitation for the disabled. So far 11 such District Rehabilitation Centres are functioning in different parts of the country.

The Ministry of Welfare has also set up four National Institutes for conducting research, training to teachers and paramedical staff and formulation of services modules in each area of disability. These institutes are National Institute of Orthopaedically Handicapped, Callcuta, Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay, the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun and National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad. In addition there are the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack and Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

Allotment of foodgrains to Maharashtra

569. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains i.e. rice, wheat, jowar etc. allotted to Maharasthra during the last six months for distribution through the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested for increase in the supplies ; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) A statement indicating the required information in regard to rice and wheat is attached *(See* below). Jowar is not allocated from the Central Pool for PDS.

(b) and (c) Requests are received from time to time from the State Governments for enhancement of their monthly quota of